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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 8, second full paragraph, please amend as follows:

Further, as shown in Fig. 1, the edge plane 15a of the holding material at the side of the impermeable layer is preferably on approximately the same plane as the edge plane 10a of the ceramic honeycomb structure, and similarly, edge plane 15b (Fig. 2D) is preferably on approximately the same plane as edge plane 10b.